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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/673,790	03/13/2001	Sean Christopher Martin	A33641 PCT/U	4211
21003	7590	12/21/2004	EXAMINER	
BAKER & BOTTS 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			WASYLCHAK, STEVEN R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3624	

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/673,790

Applicant(s)MARTIN ET AL. *ps***Examiner**

Steven R. Wasylchak

Art Unit

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/13/01.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brodsky et al. (US 6,751,597).

Claims:

1. A technically-implemented decision aid system,

which aids a user who is engaged in a selection task, such as a purchasing decision;

and, which comprises:

- a memory means which stores:/ fig 2

- product data, which comprises data relating to a plurality of products and which product data is in the form of a plurality of product-features cores ($s_{i,p}$), wherein each individual product feature-score ($s_{i,p}$) relates to one of a number of predetermined product-features (i) for one of the plurality of products (p) and wherein said product-feature-scores ($s_{i,p}$) are values which are constrained to be from predetermined intervals of values (s_{ue} to s_{ue}); and/ fig 1, 3-5; col 11, L 9-54

Art Unit: 3624

user information, which comprises information relating to preferences of the user and which user information is in the form of a plurality of user-importance-scores (l_i) relating to the importance which the user attaches to each of the number of predetermined product-features (i) wherein the user-importance-scores (l_i) are values which are constrained to be from a predetermined interval of values which expresses a range of possible levels of importance of a product-feature to the user;/fig 1, 3-5; col 11, L 9-54

a user interface which allows the user to interact with the decision aid and which comprises:/fig 2

an input device for entering data, such as user importance-scores (l_i), into the decision aid: and/fig 2

a display device for outputting data to the user

a calculating means which calculates an overall score (S_p) for each of the plurality of products as a function of product *feature-scores* ($s_{...}$) and *user-importance-scores* (l_i);
and

ranks the plurality of products according to the calculated overall scores (S_p) to form a ranked list of products;/fig 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

wherein the display device simultaneously displays:

- a current set of user-importance-scores (l_i) and
- at least a portion of the ranked list of products;

Art Unit: 3624

whereby the technically-implemented decision aid system

whereby the technically-implemented decision aid system R_y :/ claim 1, 2

provides the *user with a visual context, which assists* the decision-making process by reminding the user of the user-importance-scores (I_i) which have been entered whilst simultaneously *displaying at least a portion of* the ranked list of products./claim 1, 2

2. A technically-implemented decision aid system according to claim 1 in *which product data stored* in the memory means further comprises detailed-product-information about each of the plurality of products and in which the display device further simultaneously displays data led-product-information about one of the products on the displayed portion of the ranked list of products./ fig 2,3 ; claim 1

3. A technically-implemented decision aid system according to claim 2 in which the product for which detailed product-information is displayed may be selected by the user using the input device to indicate one of the products on the displayed portion of the ranked list of products for which detailed-product-information should be displayed./fig 2; claim 1

4. A technically-implemented decision aid system according to any of the preceding claims in which product data is obtained from a remote server *on an* information network, such as the internet./ fig 2

5. A technically-implemented decision aid system according to claim 4 in which configuration-information regarding the configuration of the display

Art Unit: 3624

device is also obtained from the remote server and in which the display device is subsequently configured according to said configuration-information./fig 2

6. A technically-implemented decision aid system according to any of the preceding claims in which the input device comprises a graphical preference mechanism, such as a graphical slider mechanism, which displays a current set of user-importance-scores (l_i) while allowing the user to alter the current user-importance scores (l_i)./fig 2, 4,5

7. A technically-implemented decision aid system according to any of the preceding claims which further comprises a pre-selecting means for pre-selecting the plurality of products as a subset from a larger plurality of products./ claim 1, 2

8. Computer software, particularly a computer program on a data carrier, which when run on a data processor, implements a technically-implemented decision aid system according to any of the preceding claims./ fig 2; claim 1, 2

This action is **NON-FINAL**. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven R. Wasylichak whose telephone number is (703) 308-2848. The examiner can

Art Unit: 3624

normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin, can be reached at (703) 308-1065. The fax number for Art Unit 3624 is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Steven Wasylchak

12 / 11 / 04



VINCENT MILLIN
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